

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MAY 2000

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May 2000 increased 8% compared with the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production for the year was 40.5 million metric tons, which was about the same as total production in 1999.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for May, decreased 3% from the prior month, to 3.2 million tons. Annualized sales or use for the year was 38.3 million tons, which was 7% lower than the total for 1999.

U.S. producer ending stocks for May were 4% higher than the figure shown in April.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census. U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 165,000 tons per month in 2000. May import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 2000 was calculated to be 40 million tons, using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1999, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted trade data, was 43.5 million tons.

IMC-Agrico Co. filed an application with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the proposed Ona Mine in Hardee County. The approval process will involve receiving various state and local permits. The company expects to complete permitting procedures by mid-2001 and begin mining shortly thereafter. IMC-Agrico estimates that it will mine more than 120 million tons of phosphate rock over the projected 24-year

lifespan of the mine. Production will be about 2.7 million tons per year for the first 8 years and 5.4 million tons per year for the remaining life of the mine. The company has proposed leaving about 24% of the 8,335-hectare site undisturbed; however, the actual amount of land preserved will be determined during the permitting process. In addition, it will reclaim 1.16 hectares of wetlands for each hectare disturbed (Green Markets, 2000).

In China, Spur Ventures Inc. of Canada announced the completion of an independent resource audit of the Yichang Phosphate project. The results indicated that the two primary deposits contain 75 million tons of phosphate rock with an in-situ grade of 24.1%  $P_2O_5$ . These deposits would be exploited first and have a lifespan of about 20 years. The other three deposits have a combined 504 million tons of reserves with an average grade of 20.82%  $P_2O_5$ . Spur has proposed producing 480,000 tons per year of diammonium phosphate and 620,000 of nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium fertilizers. A draft report on capital and operating costs is expected to be completed shortly. Construction is expected to take 2 years after the company receives financing (Fertilizer Week, 2000).

## References Cited

- Fertilizer Week, 2000, Spur completes audit on Yichang p deposits: Fertilizer Week, v. 14, no. 4, June 3, p. 2.  
Green Markets, 2000, IMCA files application for new Fla. mine: Green Markets, v. 24, no. 20, May 15, p. 8-9.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
United States:			
1999:			
May	3,680	3,940	6,620
June	3,690	3,400	6,910
July	3,540	3,610	6,750
August	3,690	3,530	6,920
September	3,140	3,220	6,820
October	3,560	3,290	7,040
November	3,120	3,280	7,060
December	3,050	3,130	6,920 r/
January-December	40,600 r/	41,600 r/	XX
2000:			
January	3,060	3,200	6,800
February	3,280	3,040	7,030
March	3,620	3,130	7,530
April	3,280	3,320	7,500
May	3,560	3,210	7,830
Total	16,800	15,900	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1999:			
May	3,100	3,340	5,380
June	3,030	2,940	5,430
July	2,980	3,010	5,300
August	3,080	3,070	5,320
September	2,690	2,700	5,300
October	2,840	2,880	5,200
November	2,810	2,880	5,300
December	2,700	2,710	5,200 r/
January-December	34,700 r/	35,900 r/	XX
2000:			
January	2,810	2,770	5,280
February	2,910	2,670	5,520
March	3,130	2,690	5,960
April	2,880	2,740	6,110
May	2,960	2,600	6,450
Total	14,700	13,500	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1999:			
May	582	604	1,240
June	662	461	1,480
July	563	602	1,440
August	614	459	1,600
September	445	520	1,530
October	726	407	1,850
November	306	392	1,760
December	352	425	1,720 r/
January-December	5,860 r/	5,540 r/	XX
2000:			
January	260	430	1,520
February	370	373	1,520
March	488	431	1,570
April	401	576	1,400
May	597	614	1,380
Total	2,120	2,420	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
1999:		
April	66	4,000
May	69	4,110
June	64	3,820
July	1	69
August	88	5,000
September	132	6,730
October	68	4,040
November	67	4,010
December	(3/)	26
January-December	746	42,200
Total year 4/	2,170	123,000
2000: 5/		
January	68	4,100
February	1	62
March	183	7,500
April	1	70
Total	253	11,700

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

4/ Includes an estimate for data suppressed by Bureau of the Census.

5/ Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	1998	1999	2000 1/
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	38.7	34.7 r/	35.4
Idaho and Utah	5.5	5.9	5.1
Total 2/	44.2	40.6 r/	40.5
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	38.0	35.9 r/	32.4
Idaho and Utah	5.6	5.5	5.8
Total 2/	43.7	41.6 r/	38.3
Yearend stocks	7.9	6.9 r/	7.8
Exports 3/	0.4	0.3	0.3
Average value per ton	\$42.70	\$41.96 r/	\$43.81
Imports for consumption e/	1.8	2.2	2.0
Average value per ton	\$52.66	\$56.54	NA
Apparent consumption e/ 4/	45.0	43.5 r/	40.0

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Annualized data.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Source: Bureau of the Census.

4/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.